REALISE CAREER ENCOUNTERS PROGRAM

With their advanced education and broad experience, graduate students and postdoctoral scholars at the Hotchkiss Brain Institute (HBI) offer employers a unique value-add: analytical minds trained to solve problems and identify better ways of doing things. We facilitate connections between eligible REALISE trainees and private sector, government and not-for-profit organizations looking for fresh talent ready to tackle a variety of projects.

Tapping into New Talent

If your organization is looking for high-achievers who are motivated, creative and trained to think critically, a REALISE student or scholar may fit the bill. Our program boasts an exceptional pool of skilled young leaders who are eager to bring novel perspectives to a range of professional opportunities.

The primary goal of the Career Encounters Program is to facilitate meaningful project-based work experience placements, giving employers access to the innovative thinking of our trainees.

REALISE Interns are expert researchers, analysts and communicators who learn swiftly and operate efficiently within a variety of professional environments. Work experience placements outside of the academy provide them with the opportunity to hone their transferable skills through real-world experience.

REALISE Host Organizations are progressive employers representing a variety of disciplines. By onboarding a REALISE Intern, they gain a new team member with a strong work ethic who is experienced with data analysis, knowledge translation and collaborative team work around an important problem.

Every REALISE Career Encounter placement – whether the project be short or long term – represents a valuable learning opportunity for our trainees. When you hire a REALISE Intern, you can look forward confidently to finding a great fit for your organization at excellent value.
Making the jump from a neuroscience research lab to the corporate sector isn’t easy, but for Chris Bladen, PhD, his training at the HBI helped to launch a new career. Thanks to the REALISE Career Encounters Program, Bladen has been able to put his acquired skills to use at CEDA, an oil and gas services company.

“Oil and gas is a very difficult field to get into if you don’t have an engineering background,” he says. “This internship was invaluable in opening a door. Once you are through that door, it becomes apparent that researchers have highly transferrable skills.”

Paul Massel, CEDA’s Senior VP of Corporate Development and Bladen’s internship supervisor, says Bladen made a quick transition into the business environment. Now the two have a collaborative working relationship.

“Chris has been challenging me in lots of ways, which has been fantastic,” Massel says. “I don’t think it’s intuitive to bring scientific researchers into your company. But being open minded and letting bright minds expose you to things that might surprise you pays off, and creates opportunities that you didn’t initially see.”

Roberta Roesler, CEDA’s CIO and Executive VP, says Bladen’s contributions to the company have been impressive.

“With Chris’ help, we have come up with some fantastic ideas for how we can help our clients manage tailings ponds,” says Roesler. “Even our Board of Directors were impressed.”

When a new job posting as an Environmental Specialist came up with CEDA, Bladen’s education and experience made him the ideal candidate - and he was ultimately successful in being offered a permanent position. Bladen says he hopes as more REALISE internships take place, word of the unique skills HBI’s graduate students and PhDs possess will spread throughout corporate Calgary.

HELP OUR STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS “REALISE” THEIR POTENTIAL
When you hire a REALISE Intern, your organization participates in the personal and professional growth of an extraordinary young talent. By supporting this unique program, you also help to retain world-class minds who will continue to serve and improve the city of Calgary. With your help, our students and scholars will go on to become the next generation of local leaders both within and beyond academia.

Please contact us if you are interested in learning more about the REALISE Career Encounters Program:

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